

325 North Hough Street Barrington, Illinois 60010-3026 phone 847.381.2525 fax 847.381.2540 www.barringtonchamber.com

# POSITION RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED ACQUISTION OF THE EJ&E WEST COMPANY BY

## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE GRAND TRUNK CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC), representing over 750 members who employ over 15,000 workers, has been apprised of an application filed with the Surface Transportation Board seeking Board approval of the acquisition of control of the EJ&E West Company.

AND WHEREAS, the BACC mission is to serve, representative, and be the principle representative and advocate for the greater Barrington businesses in ways that enhance the vibrancy of the business environment, quality of life and well-being of our unique communities:

AND WHEREAS, BACC, well- known as the business and community connection, has chosen to direct member resources towards this very critical issue that faces the region of Barrington ("The Battle for Barrington")- the acquisition of the EJ&E Railway:

AND WHEREAS, the proposed acquisition will be a severe imposition on all businesses' in the greater Barrington region and surrounding area, and will negatively result in the loss of significant retail tax dollars, thus impacting job creation and business prosperity creating a competitive disadvantage for all industries; and, the anticipated reduction in the much needed funds to assist in paying for public services, such as police & fire protection and snow removal:

AND WHEREAS, the proposed acquisition will directly place Barrington businesses' safety in harms way due to an increase in rail service, creating difficulty for emergency vehicle access to area healthcare providers and jeopardizing the communities overall emergency management program:

AND WHEREAS, the proposed acquisition will dramatically harm the historic small town character of the one and only downtown area for 90 square miles, and prohibiting the opportunity for the public to leisurely stroll our newly street scaped pedestrian friendly-lined streets due to a projected increase in rail service and the change in grade separation, and the noticeable changes in the quality of the air, noise and vibration:

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AND WHEREAS these proposals will decimate an already overburdened road grid, which is the adopted traffic pattern for a daily average of 16,350 drivers coming through the Barrington area to work, shop or to enjoy leisure activities:

WE THEREFORE, be it resolved by the 750 members of the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) and the Chairman to call upon the Surface Transportation Board to concentrate on the negative impact that this particular acquisition will have on the Barrington Area community and its environment, before you make your recommendations for your Committee on the Draft Scope of Study, held at the Makray Memorial/Golf Club in Barrington, Illinois on January 9, 2008.

Kurt Marquardt, 2008 Board Chairman

Position of Opposition adopted by the Board of Directors on January 8, 2008.

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